GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1565
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Monitoring of Air Pollution
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether air pollution is regularly monitored in various cities of the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the level of air pollution has increased several times from the prescribed level including in Delhi and other metropolitan cities during the last three years;
(c) if so, the special measures taken by his Ministry to address the issue of increasing pollution in future;
(d) whether the Government proposes to promote CNG propelled vehicles to reduce pollution in view of the respiratory diseases in metropolitan cities particularly in Delhi; and
(e) whether there is any scheme to promote use of CNG in hilly, tribal and far-flung areas which are sensitive from the environment point of view?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a)& (b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) monitor ambient air quality in the country under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Three air pollutants viz., Sulphur Dioxide (SO2), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) and Particulate Matter (PM10), are monitored at the 684 manual monitoring stations located in 302 cities / towns in 29 states and 5 union territories. Analysis of ambient air quality data of 42 million plus cities for last three years indicate that the values of SO2 were within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of 50 Âµg/m3 (annual standard) in all the cities during 2016. The value of NO2 were within permissible NAAQS limit of 40 Âµg/m3 (annual standard) in most of the cities. Exceedance was mainly observed with respect to particulate matter. However, the analysis of time series data of particulate matter in various cities does not show any significant rising trend despite rise in population, number of vehicles and other economic activities.

(c) Government has taken various measures to address issue of air pollution in the country which, inter alia,include notification of NAAQS; revision of emission and effluent standards for industrial sectors from time to time; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; launching of National Air Quality index; introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels; universalization of BS-IV by 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020; promotion of public transport and network of metro, e-rickshaws, promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control Certificate, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance, notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of biomass; issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 comprising of action points to address air pollution in major cities including control and mitigation measures related to vehicular emissions, re-suspension of road dust and other fugitive emissions, bio-mass/municipal solid waste burning, industrial pollution, construction and demolition activities, and other general steps; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries; collection of Environmental Protection Charge on more than 2000 CC diesel vehicles; and notification of graded response action plan for Delhi and NCR etc.

(d) & (e) In order to reduce air pollution in metropolitan cities, the Government has introduced cleaner alternate fuels like Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) etc. for vehicles. CNG vehicles are already plying in metropolitan cities of the country including Delhi. Delhi has world's largest public transport system that runs on CNG. Further Gas Authority of India Limited is also implementing Green Corridor Project to facilitate the availability of CNG beyond city limits so that the clean fuel can be used for long distance journeys. It also enhances the CNG usage. The standing committee on petroleum and natural gas has made recommendations on "Promotion of CNG".

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